



HUNTSVILLE  
The Star of Alabama

## City of Huntsville Inauguration 2012

*November 5  
Big Spring Park*

*Remarks by Mayor Tommy Battle*

Good Morning. I thank you for the honor and trust you have placed in me again for the next four years. I am honored to serve you and this great city.

Congratulations to council members Will Culver and Dr. Richard Showers. To Council president Mark Russell and Council members Bill Kling and John Olshefski – I thank you for your continued commitment to Huntsville and to the citizens of our community.

What we do every day in the City of Huntsville is a team effort. The team starts at home — thank you to my wife, Eula, and my son, Drew, and my daughter-in-law, Lauren, for being a part of Huntsville's success.

Team Huntsville includes 32 department heads that work every day to make this city better. The team is further defined as our workforce, one of the finest group of people I have ever had the honor to work with. The Leadership Team stretches to other governments, Team Redstone, General Via, and most importantly our citizen volunteers — each part strives on a daily basis to make our city the best it can be!

Because this is a city that is always reaching — seeking. Huntsville is known to erase the line between the possible and impossible. We are a city of innovators, dreamers, intelligence and hard work. We see it every day in the spirit of this community.

We see it in the Marshall Space Flight Center, in the military commands on Redstone Arsenal....Hudson-Alpha, Adtran, and the high tech companies in Cummings Research Park.....in our symphony and museums, our hospitals and charities.

This summer, Atlantic Monthly Cities' Richard Florida singled us out as one of the top cities among America's leading creative class metros. We define ourselves as "A Smart Place to Live, Work and Play. Home of the second largest Research Park in America with

more engineers and degreed professionals per capita than anywhere else in the United States; a place where mankind's dreams have become a reality.

Huntsville today looks remarkably different than the Huntsville 50 years ago. Even 20 years ago.

I sponsor the Mayor's bike ride around this park each May, and I am reminded that running a city is often a lot like riding a bike. If you aren't moving, you fall. During my first term, we found ourselves peddling hard and fast. The global recession took its toll. It tested us, but it also provided us with opportunities. With the help of my colleagues in the City Council, we are now leaner, more efficient, and more resourceful than ever.

We have not only survived the past four years, we have excelled. And, we have done so without raising taxes, without laying off a single city employee, without compromising public safety or city services.

The last four years and the August election is now in the history books. The focus is on tomorrow — how to make our Huntsville better.

Challenges are what define us. We are highly conscious that the economy continues to dominate the conversation — and we will work to ensure that Huntsville is at the forefront in providing jobs and economic development. We will draw the community into our master planning process, invest in our infrastructure and public safety, our schools, parks, and quality of life amenities.

No one person does this alone — certainly, no Mayor. We will do this by working together — with each of you — we will create our own vision of what we want for Huntsville's future. Through collaboration, determination, and hard work, there is no limit to our accomplishments. This is the spirit of Huntsville.

We are excited about our future, the possibilities for Huntsville. In this park, we honor those who came before us. We can, and we will, leave Huntsville a better place. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor.

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